

18
Claims

1. An apparatus in a communication system comprising:
 - 2 a transmitter operative to transmit ACK/NAK information on an ACK/NAK channel;
 - 4 a channel gate for gating said ACK/NAK channel based on whether a companion receiver has detected a matching preamble in a
 - 6 data unit received by said receiver.
2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said data unit is a first data
2 unit in a series of data units comprising a data packet.
3. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said channel gate prevents
2 transmission of said ACK/NAK channel when said receiver has failed to receive said matching preamble in said data unit.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said transmitter includes:
 - 2 a BPSK modulator for modulating said ACK/NAK information;
 - a multiplier for Walsh covering a result of said BPSK modulator
 - 4 to produce Walsh covered ACK/NAK information for transmission on said ACK/NAK channel.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 a summer for summing said ACK/NAK channel and a data rate control/pilot channel.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ACK/NAK channel is employed
2 for duration of a portion of a time slot .
7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein slot timing of said ACK/NAK channel
2 is skewed by a portion of a slot time from a slot timing used in said communication system.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ACK/NAK channel is transmitted
2 by a portion of a slot time in advance of a slot timing used in said communication system.
9. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising:
2 a reverse channel spreader operative to spread a result of said summer for transmission from said transmitter.
10. A method in a communication system comprising:
2 transmitting ACK/NAK information on an ACK/NAK channel;
gating said ACK/NAK channel based on whether a matching preamble
4 is detected in a received data unit.
11. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein said data unit is a first data
2 unit in a series of data units comprising a data packet.
12. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein said gating prevents
2 transmission of said ACK/NAK channel when said receiver has failed to receive said matching preamble in said data unit.
13. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein transmission of said
2 ACK/NAK information on said ACK/NAK channel is employed for a duration of a portion of a time slot.
14. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein said ACK/NAK channel slot
2 timing is skewed by a portion of a slot time from a slot timing used in said communication system.
15. The method of claim 10 wherein said ACK/NAK channel is transmitted
2 by a portion of a slot time in advance of a slot timing used in said communication system.

16. The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
 - 2 modulating said ACK/NAK information according to a BPSK modulation scheme;
 - 4 multiplying, for Walsh covering, a result of said modulating with a Walsh code to produce Walsh covered ACK/NAK information.
17. The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
 - 2 summing said ACK/NAK channel and a data rate control/pilot channel.
18. The method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:
 - 2 spreading a result of said summing for transmission.